In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1 – 6 (Cancelled).

7 (Currently amended). A method for immunopotentiating a cell, which comprises the step of contacting the cell with a phosphorylated dextran, wherein said phosphorylated dextran has a molecular weight of at least 100,000, and wherein at least 90% of the ~~total~~ hydroxyl groups in the dextran molecules are phosphorylated.

8 (Original). The method of claim 7, wherein the immunopotentiation is blastogenesis.

9 (Original). The method of claim 7, wherein the immunopotentiation is the induction of interferon γ (IFN-γ) or interleukin 10 (IL-10).

10 (Previously presented). The method of claim 7, wherein the cells are derived from spleen cells or dendritic cells.

11 (Currently amended). A method for producing a phosphorylated dextran having a molecular weight of at least 100,000 and immunopotentiating activity, wherein at least 90% of the ~~total~~ hydroxyl groups in the dextran molecules are phosphorylated, said method comprising the step of reacting a dextran with polyphosphoric acid under heat in a formamide solution and confirming that at least 90% of the hydroxyl groups in the dextran molecules are phosphorylated.

12 - 14 (Cancelled).

15 (Previously presented). The method of claim 8, wherein the cells are derived from spleen cells or dendritic cells.

16 (Previously presented). The method of claim 9, wherein the cells are derived from spleen cells or dendritic cells.

17 (Currently amended). A method for treating ~~or preventing~~ an infectious disease, colitis, or an allergic disease in a subject in need thereof comprising the step of administering an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a phosphorylated dextran having a molecular weight of at least 100,000 and immunopotentiating activity, wherein at least 90% of the ~~total~~ hydroxyl groups in the dextran molecules are phosphorylated, as an active ingredient and a pharmaceutical carrier.

18 (Previously presented). The method of claim 17, wherein the allergic disease is selected from the group consisting of allergic rhinitis, allergic conjunctivitis, bronchial asthma, atopic dermatitis, intestinal allergies, and anaphylactic shock.

19 (Previously presented). The method of claim 7, wherein said phosphorylated dextran has a molecular weight of at least 500,000.

20 (Previously presented). The method of claim 11, wherein said phosphorylated dextran has a molecular weight of at least 500,000.

21 (Previously presented). The method of claim 17, wherein said phosphorylated dextran has a molecular weight of at least 500,000.

22 (Currently amended). A method for producing a phosphorylated dextran having a molecular weight of at least 100,000 and immunopotentiating activity, wherein at least 90% of the hydroxyl groups in the dextran molecules are phosphorylated, comprising the following steps of:

(a) reacting a dextran with a phosphate buffer under heat;

(b) freeze-drying the reaetion solution of step (a); ~~and~~

(c) heating the freeze-dried sample of step (b) at 100-160° C for 24 hours; and

(d) confirming that at least 90% of the hydroxyl groups in the dextran molecules are phosphorylated.